

HA-1789
1932
Bel Air
Private

Built in Richardson's Addition in 1932, the Foster House, 48 W. Gordon St., faces south in a block of houses of similar period constructed, as it is, of frame, save for one stone house [HA-1787], and set back among trees and shrubs. Originally 3 bays wide, this gable-roofed 2 story house is now 4 bays wide in two blocks compact and tidy, it has a shed-roofed front porch with balustrade and a single story shed-roofed addition (northwest) and a screened porch (northeast) as its only exterior decorations. Double hung sash windows complete the ensemble.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. Indian Hill, subdivided in 1931, was the western end of land attached to the Richardson home (where Harford Mutual Insurance Co. is today) and previously held out of Richardson's Addition. Main Little built the first house there in 1931 [HA-1790]. Joseph T. Foster built this vernacular house, the second, in 1932 as a simple 3 bay two story structure.

HA-1789
Foster House
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

___ 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

x 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

STATE OF MARYLAND
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA-1789

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Foster House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 48 W. Gordon St. n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state MD county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Foster

street & number 48 W. Gordon St. telephone no.: 879-7323

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 823

street & number folio 481

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HA-1709

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

Built in 1932, the Foster House, 48 W. Gordon St., faces south in a block of houses of similar period constructed, as it is, of frame, save for one stone house, and set back among trees and shrubs. Originally 3 bays wide, this gable-roofed 2 story house is now 4 bays wide in two blocks Compact and tidy, it has a shed-roofed front porch with balustrade and a single story shed-roofed addition (northwest) and a screened porch (northeast) as its only exterior decorations. Double hung sash windows complete the ensemble.

Mr. Foster declined to have the interior described. Mrs. Foster says it includes living room, dining room, kitchen, and den on the first floor and 5 bedrooms, one small, and a bath on the second.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1789

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1932 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it, and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time, are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center.

Indian Hill, subdivided in 1931, was the western end of land attached to the Richardson home (where Harford Mutual Insurance Co. is today) and thus held out of Richardson's Addition. Main Little built the first house there in 1931 [HA-1790]. Joseph T. Foster built this vernacular house, the second, in 1932 as a simple 3 bay two-story structure.

Foster was the mortician partner in Dean and Foster, the furniture store and funeral parlor at 13 Main St. [HA-1427]. The house has been expanded west and north and is now the property of Foster's son, Joseph W. Foster, proprietor of Foster Funeral Home.

The west 2 story addition was done by the elder Fosters in the 1950s and the north, single story, addition by the younger Fosters in the late 1960s.

Joseph T. Foster became Nathan Dean's partner in 1922 on the death of Eddie Dean, the mortician. Foster continued the firm (which still included the furniture store in the late 1940s) from 1947 to 1957 when his son joined him in Joseph T. Foster & Son. In 1962 the firm became Foster Funeral Home under the direction of Joseph W. Foster.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1789

Harford County Land Records
Site visit, 30 Apr 1993

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Bel AirQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 262 in the Town of Bel Air, 175' [W. Gordon St.] x 154'.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Marilyn M. Lareworganization _____ date 5-27-93street & number RD 1 Box 219 New Park Rd. telephone 717-993-3557city or town New Park state PA 17352

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MAILED
DHCP/DHC
100 COMMUNITY PLNG.
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-200
514-7400

HA-1789
Foster House
48 W. Gordon St.
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Mrs. William Foster

823/486 27 Aug 1969
Zero, Inc.
to
Joseph William Foster and Jeanne A.

823/486 26 Aug 1969
Joseph William Foster and Jeanne A.
Mildred Elizabeth Foster, single
to
Zero, Inc.
5 parcels inherited from Joseph T. Foster, will TLA
29/579, 2 Nov 1962. Parcels 4 and 5 are lots 9-15 in
block A of Richardson's Addition and are on the south
side of W. Broadway. Parcel 1 is lots 1-6 of Indian
Hill, the subdivision of the block on which the
Richardson family home stood, which was left out of
Richardson's Addition. Plat in plat book 2/27, 4 Mar
1931, the NW half of which Foster sold to Main Little.
Parcel 2 is lot 7 of the same subdivision, the NW half
of which he sold to Little. Parcel 3 is the NE half of
lots 8-11 conveyed by Main Little to the Fosters. When
the transactions were complete, Foster owned the NE half
of lots 1-11 and Little owned the NW half, with a joint
driveway in between.

title to parcel 1

218/506 4 June 1931
Germantown Permanent Building Assoc. #2 of Baltimore
County
to
Joseph T. Foster and Sophia B.
lots 1-6 in Indian Hill

what they sold to Little

218/507 16 June 1931
Joseph T. Foster and Sophia B.
to
Main Little and Lyda S.
NW half of lots 1-6. (This will be 55 W. Broadway)

title to parcel 1 continues

- 203/135 7 Apr 1927
Frederick J. Schlosstein, attorney, of Baltimore City
to
Germantown Permanent Building Assoc.
defaulted mortgage
- 182/84 16 Mar 1923
Joseph A. Kraft and Elsie W.
mortgage to
Germantown
\$16,000
the whole half block facing on the west side Bond St.,
the north side of Gordon, the east side of William
St., and thence to Cedar Alley, returning to Bond St.
- 181/304 16 Mar 1923
Harvey K. Miller and Sallie E.
to
Joseph A. Kraft and Elsie M.
land as above
- 181/306 27 Feb 1923
William E. Robinson and Minnie
John L.G. Lee and Caroline H.
to
Harvey K. Miller
- 176/143 15 Oct 1921
Robert Archer, trustee
Frank Jacobs and wife
to
William E. Robinson and John L.G. Lee
defaulted mortgage 148/217, C. Chapman Rouse et al to
William S. Archer, 1 Mar 1915. James J. Archer, assignee
of mortgage sold it to Frank Jacobs, sale ratified by
the court. Archer died before conveying deed. Robert
Archer was appointed trustee to convey land. Meanwhile,
Jacobs sold it to Robinson and Lee. The Rouses and
Mary Richardson owned the land originally, Mrs. Rouse
being Henrietta Richardson Rouse.
- title to parcel 2
- 239/131 25 Nov 1935
Germantown
to
the Fosters
lot 7
the rest of the title as in 203/135 et seq in parcel 1

296/381 15 June 1946
 the Fosters
 to
 the Littles
 NW half of lot 7, leaving the Fosters with the NE half.

title to parcel 3

296/380 15 May 1946
 the Littles
 to
 the Fosters
 NE half of lots 8-11

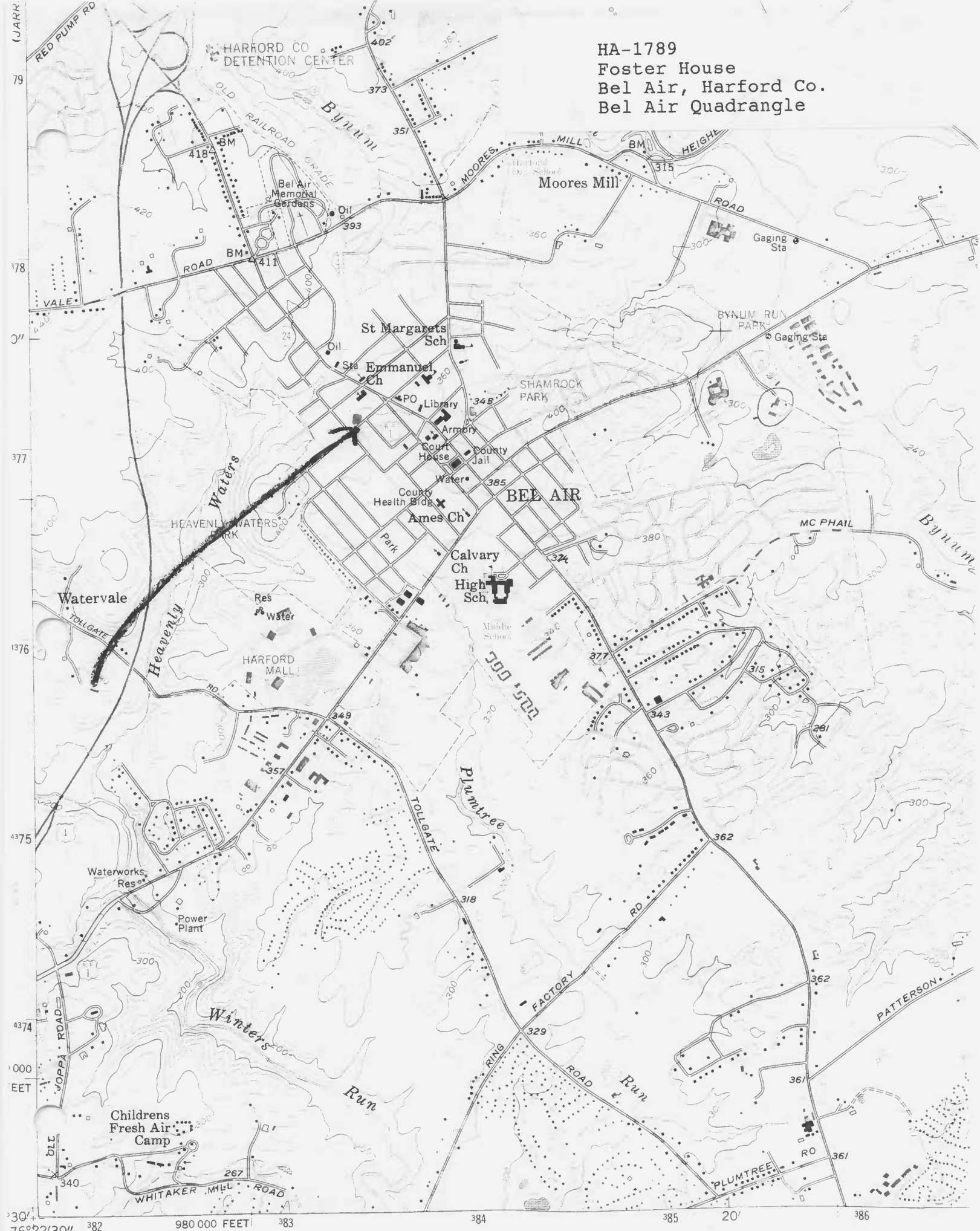
284/374 7 Aug 1944
 D. Paul McNabb, unmarried
 to
 Main Little and Lyda S.
 lots 8-11 and 25-27

284/373 7 Aug 1944
 Main E. Little and Lyda S.
 Elva Irene Little, unmarried
 to
 D. Paul McNabb
 lots 8-11 and 25-27

242/398 30 Mar 1936
 Germantown Permanent Bldg. Assoc.
 to
 Main E. Little and Elva Irene Little
 lots 8-11 and 27-27

the rest of the title goes backd to 203/135 et seq as
 in parcels 1 and 2.

HA-1789
Foster House
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Bel Air Quadrangle





TOTAL 11 2 1/2
480 1/2 1/2 1/2
1/2 1/2 1/2
1/2 1/2 1/2

48 W. GORDON ST.
BEL AIR



48 W. GORDON ST.
BEL AIR